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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/746,113	12/21/2000	Hui Wang	3375	2203

22886 7590 02/10/2003

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EXAMINER

SIEW, JEFFREY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1637

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/746,113

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey Siew

Art Unit

1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b) filed June 13, 2002 was granted. An office action follows. Claims 1-29 are pending.

Priority

2. This application filed under former 37 CFR 1.60 lacks the necessary reference to the prior application. A statement reading, "This is a continuation of Application No. 09/025151, filed 2/18/98." should be entered following the title of the invention or as the first sentence of the specification. Also, the current status of all nonprovisional parent applications referenced should be included.

The response filed 6/13/02 states the specification has been amended to recite the correct priority in the first sentence. No amendment concerning this objection has been filed or entered. The objection is maintained.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to because the listing of US applications. (e.g. page 24 line 10). The updating of current status is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 6 recites substrated. Correction is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2,4 & 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tominaga et al (Clinical chemistry vol. 42:11 pp. 1750-1757 1996).

Tominaga et al teach a method of detecting alpha globin mRNA transcripts by hybridizing sample (see page 1751 total RNA , purification of mRNA; samples would contain a plurality of RNAs) which a substrate (see abstract alpha globin mRNA transcripts are captured by alpha globin specific oligonucleotides covalently immobilized is captured on plastic plates) to which wherein the substrate has a plurality of different probes and wherein probes are suitable for multiple bases primer extension reactions (see page 1751 a plurality of different probes including single and multiple mismatch primers), synthesizing primer extension products with nucleic acid polymerase (see page 1751 Materials and Methods: MMLV reverse transcriptase), appropriate reagents and conditions(see page 1752: biotin dUTP, dATP, DGTP and dCTP at 37C for 1hr) from primers and using RNAs as templates and detecting primer extension products.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tominaga et al (Clinical chemistry vol. 42:11 pp. 1750-1757 1996) in view of Takarada et al (US5,981,183 Nov. 9, 1999).

The teachings of Tominaga et al are described previously.

Tominaga et al do not teach thermostable reverse transcriptase.

Takarada et al teach thermostable RNA dependent polymerase(see abstract & col.2 lines 1-5).

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One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to apply Takarada et al to thermostable RNA dependent polymerase to Tominaga et al in order to reverse transcribe the hybridized RNA. Takarada et al teach that thermostability allows for higher specificity by raising the reaction temperature and avoids the severe problem of storing and supplying enzyme from refrigerated to reaction state (see col.2 lines 1-5). It would have been prima facie obvious to apply Takarada et al's thermostable enzyme to Tominaga et al's detection method in order to increase hybridization and extension specificity.

7. Claims 6-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tominaga et al (Clinical chemistry vol. 42:11 pp. 1750-1757 1996) in view of Matson et al (US6,037,124 March 14, 2000)

The teachings of Tominaga et al are described previously.

Tominaga et al do not teach synthesizing on the substrate.

Matson teach synthesizing oligonucleotides on solid phase in multiwell plates (see col. 1 lines 55- col.2 line 30 & col.12 lines 35).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to apply Matson et al in order to allow larger scale production while avoiding the handling of many independent oligonucleotides (see col. 2 lines 20-25). It would have been prima facie obvious to apply Matson et al's teaching of DNA synthesis on solid support in order to construct a plurality of different oligonucleotides for hybridizing RNA samples in Tominaga et al's detection method.

SUMMARY

8. No claims allowed.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

CONCLUSION

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Siew whose telephone number is (703) 305-3886 and whose e-mail address is Jeffrey.Siew@uspto.gov. However, the office cannot guarantee security

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through the e-mail system nor should official papers be transmitted through this route. The examiner is on flex-time schedule and can best be reached on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion, can be reached on (703)-308-1119.

Any inquiry of a general nature, matching or filed papers or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tracey Johnson for Art Unit 1637 whose telephone number is (703)-305-2982.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Center numbers for Group 1600 are Voice (703) 308-3290 and Before Final FAX (703) 872-9306 or After Final FAX (703) 30872-9307.


JEFFREY SIEW
PRIMARY EXAMINER

February 5, 2003